

What is claimed is:

1. A method for configuration negotiation in a data communication system, comprising:
 - receiving, at an access network, an access request and a token from an access terminal, the token including at least one bit associated with a parameter group type, the bit indicating whether the access terminal is operating according to a predetermined default parameter group for the associated parameter group type;
 - sending information to and receiving information from the access terminal according to the predetermined default parameter group without negotiating parameters for the associated parameter group type when a portion of the access network communicating with the access terminal operates according to the predetermined default parameter group for the associated parameter group type and the bit indicates the access terminal operates according to the predetermined default parameter group for the associated parameter group type.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein a parameter group type is a type of protocol, and a parameter group in the parameter group type is a specific protocol in the parameter group type.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - sending information to and receiving information from the access terminal after negotiating a parameter group for the associated parameter group type when (i) the portion of the access network communicating with the access terminal operates according to a parameter group other than the predetermined default parameter group for the associated parameter group type and the bit indicates the access terminal operates according to the predetermined default parameter group for the associated parameter group type, or (ii) the portion of the access network communicating with the access terminal operates according to the predetermined default parameter group for the associated parameter group type and the bit indicates the access terminal operates according to a parameter group other than the predetermined default parameter group for the parameter group type.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

first accessing memory at the access network when the bit indicates the access terminal is not operating according to the predetermined default parameter group to obtain a stored parameter group of the associated parameter group type for the access terminal; and

sending information to and receiving information from the access terminal according to the accessed parameter group of the associated parameter group type for the access terminal without negotiating a parameter group of the associated parameter group type when a portion of the access network communicating with the access terminal operates according the accessed parameter group for the associated parameter group type.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

sending information to and receiving information from the access terminal after negotiating a parameter group of the associated parameter group type when the portion of the access network communicating with the access terminal operates according to a parameter group of the associated parameter group type which is different from the stored parameter group of the associated parameter group type for the access terminal.

6. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

sending information to and receiving information from with the access terminal after negotiating a parameter group of the associated parameter group type when the first accessing step fails to access a stored parameter group of the associated parameter group type for the access terminal.

7. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

second accessing memory at another access network to obtain a stored parameter group of the associated parameter group type for the access terminal when the first accessing step fails to access a stored parameter group of the associated parameter group type for the access terminal and the bit indicates the access terminal is not operating according to the predetermined default parameter group.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

sending information to and receiving information from the access terminal after negotiating a parameter group of the associated parameter group type when the first and second accessing steps fail to access a stored parameter group of the associated parameter group type for the access terminal.

9. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

sending the access terminal a new token indicating a current parameter group of each parameter group type after negotiations are complete.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending the access terminal a new token indicating a current parameter group of each parameter group type after negotiations are complete.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the token includes a plurality of bits, each bit associated with a different parameter group type.

12. A method for configuration negotiation in a data communication system, comprising:

receiving, at an access network, an access request and a token from an access terminal, the token including at least one bit associated with a parameter group type, the bit indicating whether the access terminal is operating according to a predetermined default parameter group for the associated parameter group type;

first accessing memory at the access network when the bit indicates the access terminal is not operating according to the predetermined default parameter group to obtain a stored parameter group of the associated parameter group type for the access terminal; and

sending information to and receiving information from the access terminal according to the accessed parameter group of the associated parameter group type for the access terminal without negotiating a parameter group of the associated parameter group type when a portion of the access network communicating with the access terminal operates according the accessed parameter group for the associated parameter group type.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

sending information to and receiving information from the access terminal after negotiating a parameter group of the associated parameter group type when the portion of the access network communicating with the access terminal operates according to a parameter group of the associated parameter group type which is different from the stored parameter group of the associated parameter group type for the access terminal.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

sending information to and receiving information from the access terminal after negotiating a parameter group of the associated parameter group type when the first accessing step fails to access a stored parameter group of the associated parameter group type for the access terminal.

15. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

second accessing memory at another access network to obtain a stored parameter group of the associated parameter group type for the access terminal when the first accessing step fails to access a stored parameter group of the associated parameter group type for the access terminal and the bit indicates the access terminal is not operating according to the predetermined default parameter group.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

sending information to and receiving information from the access terminal after negotiating a parameter group of the associated parameter group type when the first and second accessing steps fail to access a stored parameter group of the associated parameter group type for the access terminal.

17. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

sending the access terminal a new token indicating a current parameter group of each parameter group type after negotiations are complete.

18. The method of claim 12, wherein the token includes a plurality of bits, each bit associated with a different parameter group type.